

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-17, 19 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 19 and 22 are amended, and claims 6, 7, 18, 20 and 21 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. No new matter is added.

The Rejection of Claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 are Overcome

As stated on pages 5 and 6 in the Examiner's Answer dated May 22, 2002 and re-iterated in the Decision on Appeal, the Examiner found claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 to be patentable distinct over the applied reference of Menezes et al. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled these claims and placed the subject matter into their respective independent claims. In particular, the subject matter of claims 6 and 7 have been canceled and incorporated into independent claim 1, and the subject matter of claims 18, 20 and 21 have been canceled and incorporated into independent claim 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Menezes et al., Handbook of Applied Cryptography, has been rendered moot because the subject matter of claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims 1 and 12, and as indicated by the Examiner that claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 are overcome by Applicant's

arguments found in the Appeal Brief. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn, and place the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of each of claims 1-5, 8-17, 19 and 22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

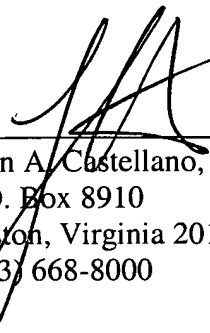
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/DJC/